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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7383**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 484**

**NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2007**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Protective Parent Reform Act.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Drozda

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**

**GENERAL**

**IMPACT:** No Fiscal Impact

**DEDICATED**

**FEDERAL**

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that: (1) a court may not restrict a parent's custody or parenting time with a child based solely on the parent's actions concerning the parent's reasonable belief that the parent's child is the victim of child abuse or neglect or domestic or family violence; (2) a parent may not be deprived of custody based on a mental health professional's opinion that the parent may flee with the child; and (3) a guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate, or counsel for a child may advocate only for the wishes of the child. The bill prohibits: (1) a guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate, or counsel for a child from being considered a quasi-judicial officer or granted a fact finding role; (2) a court from allowing certain expert evidence; (3) certain reports and recommendations to be filed with the court; (4) a court from appointing certain mental health professionals; and (5) a court from engaging in ex parte communications with certain individuals. The bill also requires a court to consider evidence of child abuse or neglect or domestic or family violence in determining custody or parenting time. It requires a court to: (1) provide evaluations and reports to a parent; and (2) allow a parent the opportunity to depose and cross-examine a mental health profession or custody evaluator.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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